

## Message Text

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SUBJECT: GLOBE AND MAIL REPORTS "MILITARY DIGS IN FOR FIGHT  
WITH RICHARDSON ON NATIONAL DEFENCE POLICY

REF: OTTAWA 3469

1. THE INFLUENTIAL TORONTO GLOBE AND MAIL, NOVEMBER 4, IN A PAGE ONE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT THE CANADIAN MILITIA, IN A REVERSAL OF TRADITIONAL CANADIAN ROLES, HAS BEEN AT THE "SHARP END" OF A CAMPAIGN RECENTLY BEGUN TO OPEN A DEBATE ON CANADA'S NATIONAL DEFENSE WITH THE REGULAR ARMED FORCES HOLDING BACK IN RESERVE. ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY NORMAN HARTLEY AND PRINTED UNDER AN EIGHT-COLUMN HEADLINE CITED IN THE SUBJECT ABOVE, THE "BATTLE" HAS BEEN A PUBLIC RELATIONS AND LOBBYING OPERATION WITH DEFENCE MINISTER RICHARDSON AS "THE ENEMY".

2. THE ARTICLE STATED THAT MILITIA OFFICERS WHO, AS CIVILIANS, ARE LESS BOUND BY OFFICIAL CONTROLS THAN THEIR REGULAR FORCES COUNTERPARTS, HAVE BEEN SPEAKING OUT STRONGLY AGAINST WHAT THEY SEE AS MOVES BY RICHARDSON AND THE CABINET TO ALLOW THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES TO BECOME "ALMOST TOTALLY POWERLESS." REPORTEDLY, THEY ARE ACCUSING THE GOVERNMENT OF ALLOWING CANADIAN DEFENSE

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TO BECOME "A COMPLETE MESS"-- BECAUSE OF CUTBACKS PLANNED

IN A BOUT OF INFLATION PANIC RATHER THAN THROUGH "CARE-FULLY PLANNED STRATEGIC DECISIONS."

3. HARTLEY WROTE THAT THE ACCUSATIONS THE ARMED FORCES ARE MAKING AGAINST RICHARDSON INCLUDE: (A) "HE IS NOT TAKING HIS RESPONSIBILITIES AS DEFENCE MINISTER SERIOUSLY ENOUGH"; "HE IS IGNORANT OF MANY KEY ISSUES ON NATIONAL DEFENCE"; (C) "HE IS PUTTING UP A SMOKE SCREEN TO CONVINCE CANADIANS THAT NATIONAL DEFENCE IS IN GOOD SHAPE WHEN IN REALITY IT IS ON THE WAY TO BECOMING AN EXERCISE IN EXPENSIVE TOKENISM, WITH THE FORCES UNABLE TO FILL ANY OF THEIR ASSIGNED TASKS PROPERLY."

4. HARTLEY CLAIMED THAT IN THE PAST TWO WEEKS MILITIA OFFICERS, SPEAKING OFTEN WITH THE KNOWLEDGE AND APPROVAL OF REGULAR FORCES, HAVE PUT UP A "DRAMATIC COUNTERPOINT" TO RICHARDSON'S ASSURANCES THAT INFLATION PROBLEMS CAN BE COUNTERED BY CREATING A STREAMLINED BY EFFICIENT, SMALLER FORCE. HE REPORTED THAT OFFICERS HAVE PUBLICLY MADE A NUMBER OF "DRAMATIC CHARGES" CHALLENGING THE MINISTER TO DISPROVE: (A) "IF THE ARMED FORCES WERE CALLED OUT TO HELP DEAL WITH A MUNICH-STYLE SECURITY CRISIS AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES, AS THE GOVERNMENT HAS SAID THEY COULD BE, THERE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE ANY TRAINED TROOPS AVAILABLE TO MEET THE CALL"; (B) "ARTILLERY AMMUNITION STOCKS ARE SO LOW THAT DURING THE CURRENT STRIKE AT THE CANADIAN INDUSTRIES, LTD., EXPLOSIVE PLANT AT BELOEIL, QUEBEC, NO ARTILLERY WEAPONS WERE OPERATIONAL TO CANADA"; (C) "CANADIAN FORCES' ROLE IN SURVEILLANCE OF COAST-LINES AND AIRSPACE IS ALMOST COMPLETELY INEFFECTIVE AND CANADA HAS LITTLE FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE AND NO REAL CONTROL OVER FOREIGN ACTIVITIES IN THE ARCTIC"; (D) "MANY REGULAR FORCE UNITS IN CANADA HAVE BEEN STRIPPED OF EQUIPMENT TO BOOST THE NATO COMMITMENT IN EUROPE, TO THE POINT WHERE THEY ARE HOPELESSLY UNDERMANNED AND UNDER EQUIPPED"; (E) "IF THE CABINET CONTINUES WITH ITS APPARENT PLAN NOT TO REPLACE THE CENTURION TANK IN CANADIAN ARMORED UNITS, THEN ANY FUTURE DEBATES ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT CANADA SHOULD PULL OUT OF NATO

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WILL BE IRRELEVANT, BECAUSE THE CANADIAN FORCES WILL BE OF NO REAL USE TO NATO."

5. THE CAMPAIGN WAS "UNLEASHED," ACCORDING TO THE GLOBE AND MAIL, AFTER RICHARDSON SAID IT WAS BETTER FOR CANADA TO HAVE 50,000 MEN WHO ARE WELL-PAID, WELL-EQUIPPED AND WELL-FED AND WHO HAVE HIGH MORALE, RATHER THAN 80,000 MEN WHO CAN ONLY SIT AROUND IN BARRACKS.

HARTLEY REPORTED THAT PREVIOUS REMARKS BY RICHARDSON HAD ANGERED THE MILITARY, BUT THEY SAID THIS "AS THE LAST STRAW" BECAUSE THEY REGARDED IT AS A SPECIFIC MOVE "TO BAMBOOZLE THE PUBLIC INTO BELIEVING THAT FURTHER CUTBACKS WOULD NOT ENTAIL ANY CHANGE IN CANADA'S DEFENCE POSTURE AND CAPABILITY."

6. SINCE RICHARDSON'S REMARKS ABOUT A 50,000 MAN FORCE, HARTLEY REPORTED THERE HAD "BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT WHICH ROLE SHOULD BE CUT BACK." MOST SERVING OFFICER, HE WROTE, "APPEARS TO STRONGLY FAVOR MAINTAINING A CANADIAN ROLE IN NATO, ALTHOUGH SOME ARGUE THAT IF THE NATO COMMITMENT WERE DROPPED, THERE WOULD BE ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR TERRITORIAL SURVEILLANCE AND DEFENCE." BUT THE MILITARY'S "REAL COMPLAINT AGAINST RICHARDSON AND THE LIBERAL GOVERNMENT IS", ACCORDING TO HARTLEY, "THAT THE ISSUES ARE NOT BEING ARGUED OUT IN MILITARY OR STRATEGIC TERMS--ONLY AS PART OF THE OVERALL GOVERNMENT CONCERN WITH FIGHTING INFLATION. THEY BELIEVE RICHARDSON HAS A WEAK VOICE IN CABINET, AND THAT DEFENCE HAS A LOW PRIORITY IN CABINET, WITH THE RESULT THAT THEY ARE BEING USED TO SAVE DOLLARS, WITHOUT THE IMPLICATIONS BEING THOUGHT THROUGH."

7. HARTLEY QUOTED ONE SENIOR CANADIAN OFFICIAL AS SAYING: "IF WE WANT TO DO AWAY WITH DEFENCE AND ABDICATE IT TO THE AMERICANS, FINE. BUT LET'S CUT OUT THE PRETENSE THAT THAT ISN'T WHAT WE'RE REALLY DOING." PORTER

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